

# UNCLE SAM HAS FULLY DECIDED ON NEARLY ALL TERMS OF PEACE; AS MILES GOES MARCHING ON.

Governmental Dictation in the Philippines Still Unsettled.

American Forces Not Only Victorious in Porto Rico But Everywhere Are Greeted With Popular Acclamation.

Spain Must Quit-Claim Her Caribbean Possessions and Give Up Coaling Stations in the Philippines, Ladrone and Carolines.

Also What Spanish Guaranties Should Be Held Sufficient.

## DISCUSSION OF PEACE TERMS RESULTS IN CONCLUSIONS

### Wherein the President and His Advisers Are Decided

- 1—Independence demanded for Cuba.
- 2—Porto Rico to be ceded to the United States.
- 3—Of the Philippines only a coaling station to be retained.
- 4—Coaling stations to be acquired at Guam, Ladrone islands, and one in the Carolines.
- 5—Final, complete and utter extinction of the remotest vestige of Spanish rule and authority in the West Indian region.
- 6—Spain's relinquishment of such rule and authority to operate as a quit claim of all indebtedness assumed by the Spanish government and charged against the Spanish West India islands.
- 7—No reference to any question regarding the disposition of the Philippines, to any outside power or powers.
- 8—No armistice, or modification of existing military plans until Spain has acceded to the terms proposed.

### Wherein a Decision Has Not Yet Been Arrived At

- 1—Whether or not the United States shall interfere to prescribe governmental changes in the Philippines.
- 2—If interference is made, what form of government shall be stipulated for, and what guarantees shall be demanded of Spain.

Washington, D. C., July 29.—Nearly five hours' earnest discussion by the president and his constitutional advisers of the response to be made by the government to the Spanish overtures for peace brought no conclusion, and the subject necessarily was postponed for further consideration at another meeting of the cabinet, to be held at half past 10 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Such was the formal statement of the situation made at the conclusion of the day's work by each member of the cabinet who was questioned on the subject. The final conclusion, however, is much nearer than this statement would seem to indicate, and there is indeed little reason to doubt that an agreement has been reached on all substantial points at issue, and that what remains to be done tomorrow is rather to smooth away inequalities and adjust some very minor points of difference before making the answer expected by them.

The point under discussion during the greater part of the meeting was what disposition should be made of the Philippines. On the other issues unanimity developed. There was to be independence demanded for Cuba, Porto Rico was to be ceded to the United States; coaling stations were to be acquired at Guam, the Ladrone islands, and one in the Carolines.

The propositions were disposed of quickly, but when it came to the Philippines some diversity of opinion was revealed. As near as can be gathered this did not relate mainly to the retention of the islands, for on that proposition a majority of the cabinet was speedily recorded in the negative. But, accepting the broad proposition that Spain was to be allowed to keep those possessions, other questions of importance developed, and it was felt that these must be answered definitely before the subject could be disposed of. There was no question as to the propriety of something the willing station in the Philippines, and, while there reasonably might be a difference of opinion as to the location and extent of this, little difficulty was expected to be encountered in

evolving that problem, because the matter could be referred to the navy board, who are competent to deal with the subject.

The perplexing problem was what form of government should be instituted in the Philippines, and what should be the nature of the guarantee required of Spain that the new government should be liberal and autonomous in character.

This question hinges on the primary decision to interfere at all in prescribing a change in the conditions in the Philippines. Some members of the cabinet felt that the insurgents under Aguinaldo, having acted independently of the United States from the very beginning of the insurrectionary movement, having lately shown a disposition to make trouble for us, had no moral claim upon the United States in the settlement of the terms of peace. On the other hand, it was urged that our government should lose no opportunity to extend its principles throughout the world, and that this would be best in the present case by requiring Spain to extend genuine autonomy to the Philippines. It was upon just such points as these that the discussion proceeded all day.

A point which was quickly established was that there should be no reference of any phase of the question of the disposition of the islands to any court or individual action by outside powers.

Another point that was settled, though there was no formal action in it, was that no protest against the continuance of military or naval operations pending the peace negotiations would avail in the slightest; that there would be no armistice, no suspension of operations or any modification whatever of present plans until the Spanish government had agreed to the terms proposed.

Incident to the reason of Porto Rico and the recognition of Cuban independence by Spain, was the decision that every vestige of Spanish government and authority in the Caribbean and West Indian waters must be removed, effecting a material acquisition of numerous islands over which the Spanish flag flies, one of the most important of which is the Isle of Pines.

Furthermore, the sweeping change of authority from Spain to the United States of nearly by waters is to be effective also as a quit-claim of all indebtedness assumed by the Spanish government and charged by her to those islands, so far as the United States is concerned, and all commercial treaties now existing between the Spanish government and her possessions there and outside powers are extinguished.

Some discussion was introduced as to the probability of Spanish acceptance of our terms. The views differed, though it can be stated that several of the more influential members of the cabinet believe that the terms substantially agreed upon would not be accepted by Spain at once. While believing that Spain at present made should in all reason constitute the minimum to be considered, some expressed the belief that Spain would not be immediately disposed to reach an agreement on them, and that possibly a considerable lapse of time would ensue before that government would be ready to yield, meantime seeking a compromise which, it was asserted, was not to be entertained for a moment. Others took the ground that there was every indication that what had been decided to make terms, and that what was now proposed would soon be accepted, and that the government would then be taken and the answer of the government is likely to be communicated to Spain before nightfall.

One factor in the protracted discussion of the Philippine problem was the absence of advice as to the existing situation there on this date, a point that might be of considerable importance in the adjustment of the question. The unconfirmed dispatch reporting that Manila had surrendered was read and commented on, indicating that definite action without the knowledge of the exact situation at Manila might cause a statement regarding conditions that did not exist.

The formal papers crystallizing the results of the two sessions today will be ready for action tomorrow. A formal vote will then be taken and the answer of the government is likely to be communicated to Spain before nightfall.

San Francisco, Cal., July 29.—At a special meeting of the chamber of commerce today called for the purpose of expressing the opinion of the business men of this city as to the disposition of the Philippines and to present the humiliated of the chamber to the president of the United States, the following resolution was adopted, after a preamble complimentary to the president for his conduct of the war with Spain:

Resolved, That the chamber of commerce of San Francisco, voicing the views of this city, hereby respectfully and earnestly petitions the president to hold and retain under our full control the Philippine islands and all other lands which now or may be hereafter acquired in the present war with Spain, with a view to strengthening our trade relations with the Orient, building up a business that belongs to this country and extending the cause of humanity and civilization, as well as greatly benefiting the people who will thus be brought under our flag.

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF SAN FRANCISCO.

H. C. CRAIG, President.

PORTLAND FOLLOWS SUIT

Portland, Ore., July 29.—The Portland chamber of commerce today adopted resolutions regarding the Philippines, declaring:

"That we believe any other course than

It is feared, the correspondent reports, that the peace negotiations will not be very smooth or expeditious. Already there are preliminary signs of action against the inevitable concessions, and the correspondent of the Times considers it "very doubtful whether all the ministers have the moral courage to accept the responsibility and to face boldly a certain amount of unpopularity."

A special dispatch from Madrid says: Though it is not likely that the government will decide to prolong the war because of Porto Rico, considerable feeling is manifested and every possible diplomatic effort will be made to retain it. Apparently there is little objection to ceding a coaling station in the Philippines, provided Spanish sovereignty is respected in the island, which, in the opinion of government official circles, will afford compensation in commerce, loss of the Antilles, besides procuring occupation for the West Indian army in re-establishing Spain's rule.

The American reply is still anxiously awaited. Judging from the press opinion, anything beyond the possession of Cuba will be considered harsh and unjust. This is the unanimous feeling among even the strongest advocates of peace. The people are beginning to realize that peace will mean almost a total loss of colonies, and looking to the delicate and difficult position of the queen regent, great care is still necessary to induce the nation to accept the terms.

According to El Liberal, the government should not allow even the loss of some of the Philippines to hinder the conclusion of peace, because it is very doubtful whether the country would endorse sending an army of 40,000 men to crush the rebellion.

HARD TO TAKE OR LEAVE

London, July 29.—The Times, in an editorial this morning on the terms of peace, confines itself to a discussion of the questions raised in the Philippines. It says: "It seems equally difficult for America to take or leave them. Spain had trouble enough to hold them before the war. She will be still more embarrassed now, and probably would not remain long without the tempting offers from some of the powers which her poverty would tempt her to accept."

"Had America demanded a cessation of the Philippines outright, Spain could hardly have avoided yielding. Now she may find it very difficult to retain them, and the tempting offers from some of the powers which her poverty would tempt her to accept."

"Here are all the elements of a bargain, which skillful diplomacy might turn to Spain's advantage, but the thing must be done quickly and the advantage not pressed too far."

STRONG PLEA FOR PHILIPPINES

London, July 29.—Native of the Philippine islands and British subjects who have interests there are alarmed by the reports that the peace terms include the return of those islands to Spain. As a result they have held a meeting here and, after consultation with the Philippines in France and Belgium, have called to President McKinley and to Senator Davis, chairman of the foreign relations committee, the message to President McKinley as follows:

"The Philippine residents in Europe pray you not to abandon the Philippine islands for the sake of peace with Spain. Our loyalty and trust in the honor of America entitle us to your consideration and support. To hand over our country again to Spain is contrary to the humiliated of the chamber to the president of the United States, the following resolution was adopted, after a preamble complimentary to the president for his conduct of the war with Spain:

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## ARMY AND NAVY EVERYWHERE TRIUMPHANT IN PORTO RICO

Washington, D. C., July 29.—The most important news received at the war department today was the cable from General Miles, announcing the excellent progress being made in southern Porto Rico and the capture of Ponce. The navy department also received a cable announcing that the navy had captured the city of Ponce and landed the forces under General Miles. Both departments are very much satisfied with what has been accomplished, and the tone of both dispatches indicates that the rivalry between the army and navy for honors in the Spanish war is not at an end. The department expects an easy conquest of Porto Rico, and that, notwithstanding the overtures for peace made by Spain, the war will be prosecuted vigorously in that island.

### CAPTURE OF PONCE

St. Thomas, D. W. I., July 29.—The port of Ponce, island of Porto Rico, surrendered to Commander Davis, of the auxiliary gunboat Dixie on Wednesday. There was no resistance and the Americans were welcomed with enthusiasm. The capitulation of the town of Ponce took place on Thursday afternoon.

Washington, July 29.—The Dixie was largely manned by the Maryland naval reserves.

### MILES' DISPATCHES

Washington, July 29.—The war department today received the following dispatches from General Miles:

Port Ponce, Porto Rico, via St. Thomas, July 29.—Secretary of War, Washington.—On the 26th General Miles had a spirited engagement on skirmish line. Our casualties four wounded; all doing well. Spanish loss, three killed, thirteen wounded. Yauco occupied yesterday. Henry's division there. Last evening Commander Davis of the Dixie moved into this port, followed by Captain Higginson, with his fleet early this morning. General Wilson with Ernest's brigade now rapidly disembarking.

Spanish troops are retreating from the southern part of Porto Rico. Ponce and port have population of 50,000, now under American flag. The populace received troops and saluted flag with wild enthusiasm. Navy has several prizes, also seventy lighters. Railway stock, partly destroyed, now restored. Telegraph communication also being restored. Cable instruments destroyed. Have sent to Jamaica for others. This is a prosperous and beautiful country. The army will soon be in mountain region; weather delightful. Troops in best of health and spirits; anticipate no insurmountable obstacle in future. Results thus far have been accomplished without the loss of a single life.

(Signed) NELSON A. MILES,

Major General.

Port Ponce, Porto Rico, July 29.—Secretary of War, Washington.—In the affair of the 26th, Captain Edward J. Gibson, company A, was wounded in left hip. Captain J. H. Prior, company L, slightly wounded in hand. Private James Drummond, company K, two wounds in neck, and Private Benjamin F. Rosbeck, company L, slight wound in right arm. All of Sixth Massachusetts. All doing well. The Spanish retreat from this place was precipitous, they leaving rifles and ammunition in barracks and forty or fifty sick in hospital. The people are enjoying a holiday in honor of our arrival.

(Signed) MILES.

### HIGGINSON'S REPORT

Washington, July 29.—The navy department today posted the following bulletin: St. Thomas, July 29.—U. S. S. Massachusetts, Porto Rico, July 29.—Commander Davis, with Dixie, Annapolis, Wasp and Gloucester, left Guayama, July 27, to blockade Ponce and capture lighters for United States army. City of Ponce and plaza surrendered to Commander Davis upon demand at 12:30 a. m. July 28. American flag hoisted at 5 a. m. 29th. Spanish garrison evacuated. Provisional articles of surrender under compulsion by army; first, garzon to be allowed to retire, second, civil government to remain in force; third, police and the brigade to be maintained without arms; fourth, captain of port not to be made prisoner.

"Arrived at Ponce from Guayama with Massachusetts and Gloucester. General Miles and General Wilson and transports at 6:40 a. m. 29th. Commenced landing army in captured water lighters. No resistance. Troops welcomed by inhabitants; great enthusiasm. Captured sixty

lighters, twenty sailing vessels and 120 tons of coal.

(Signed) "HIGGINSON."

### AMERICAN MARCH INLAND

Port of Ponce, Porto Rico, July 29, via the island of St. Thomas, D. W. I., July 29.—The port of Ponce surrendered to Commander C. H. Davis, of the auxiliary gunboat Dixie yesterday. There was no resistance and the Americans were welcomed with enthusiasm. Major General Miles arrived here this morning at daylight with General Wilson's division on board transports. General Ernest's brigade immediately started for the town of Ponce, three miles inland, which capitulated this afternoon.

The American troops are pushing toward the mountains and will join General Henry with his brigade at Yauco, which has been captured by our troops.

A fight before the latter place on Tuesday last was won by the American volunteers.

The Spaniards ambushed the camps of the Sixth Massachusetts and Sixth Illinois regiments, but the enemy was repulsed and driven back a mile to the ridge, where the Spanish cavalry charged and were routed by our infantry.

General Garrison led the fight with the men from Illinois and Massachusetts and the enemy retreated to Yauco, leaving four dead on the field and several wounded. None of our men were killed and only three were wounded slightly. The wounded are: Captain Gibson Barrett, Private James Drummond and Private H. C. Gary.

The Porto Ricans are glad the American troops have landed, and say they are all Americans and will join our army.

The roads are good for military purposes. Our troops are healthy, and General Miles says the campaign will be short and vigorous.

### MILES PROCLAIMS LIBERTY

General Miles has issued the following proclamation:

"In the prosecution of the war against the kingdom of Spain by the people of the United States, in the cause of liberty, justice and humanity, its military forces have come to occupy the island of Porto Rico. They come bearing the banners of freedom, inspired by a noble purpose, to seek the enemies of our government and of yours, and to destroy or capture all in armed resistance. They bring you the fostering arms of a free people, whose greatest power is justice and humanity to all living within their fold. Hence they release you from your former political relations and it is hoped this will be followed by your cheerful acceptance of the government of the United States.

"The chief object of the American military forces will be to overthrow the authority of Spain and give the people of your beautiful island the largest measure of liberty consistent with this military occupation. They have not come to make war on the people of the country, who for centuries have been oppressed, but, on the contrary, they bring protection not only to yourselves, but to your property; to promote your prosperity and better the immunities and blessings of our enlightened and liberal institutions and government.

"It is not their purpose to interfere with the existing laws and customs which are wholesome and beneficial to the people, so long as they conform to the rules of the military administration, order and justice. This is not a war of devastation and desolation, but one to give all within the control of the military and naval forces the advantages and blessings of enlightened civilization."

## Spain Must Quit-Claim Her Caribbean Possessions and Give Up Coaling Stations in the Philippines, Ladrone and Carolines.

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Colonel Allen leaves St. Thomas tonight with operators and instruments and it is expected that by Saturday night General Miles will be in telegraphic communication with the war department.

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Orders have been given for the troops now at Miami to proceed to Jacksonville. These regiments are as follows:

The First and Second Louisiana; First and Second Texas and First and Second Alabama volunteers.

Chickamauga, July 29.—The First South Carolina regiment broke camp at 5 a. m. this morning and marched five miles to Roseville, where Southern rail-

road trains for Jacksonville were taken. The officers and men of this regiment have been anxious to get away for some time and their departure was an especially gratifying one. No other commands have yet received moving orders but it is believed that the First brigade, Second division, First corps will go out early next week. The local railroad officials have received invitations from the war department to bid on the transportation of the Sixth United States volunteer infantry and Fourth Tennessee infantry at Knoxville and the Fifth United States volunteer infantry at Columbus, to Chickamauga Park.

The Fifth Illinois regiment, whose moving orders were revoked, is still considerably demoralized, but every effort is being made to get it back into shape. The large number of men who failed to return to camp when the regiment was ordered back are being gathered in as rapidly as possible. The majority of the missing men are in Chattanooga.

Colonel Smith, commanding the Fifth Indiana has just formed a company of scouts in his regiment. The organization numbers 50 men, eight from each company. The company is in charge of Sergeant St. Clair, a veteran of the civil war, and who was for 22 months one of General Crook's scouts. He was already commencing training the scouts, the first learning to crawl along the ground lying flat on their stomachs.

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### SPANIARDS NOT FIXED

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